



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI

Sewer Upgrade Project

King County is upgrading four miles of sewer pipeline across north Mercer Island and south Bellevue. It is a big project that has been years in the making and will involve years of construction. Project work will be in heavily used public spaces, and in some residential areas. While the work to get there may involve temporary inconveniences, the end product will provide great public benefit.

We are committed to keeping you informed about what's happening and why. This is one of a series of fact sheets that explain the North Mercer/Enatai (NME) Sewer Upgrade Project and what the public should expect—during construction and after the work is done.

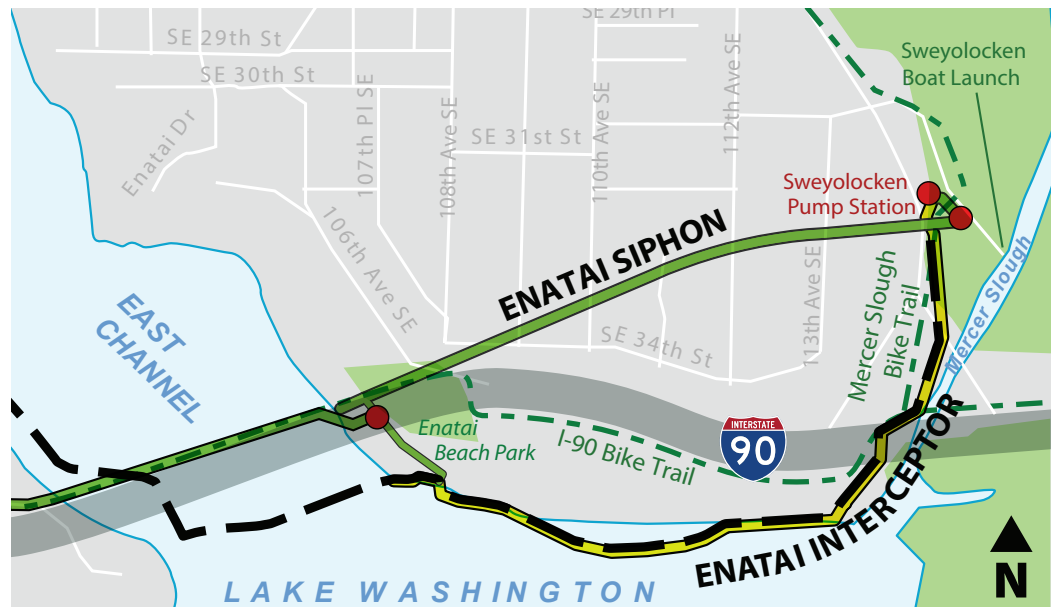
Mercer Slough and the Swayolocken Boat Launch What's Happening... and Why

Bellevue's popular Mercer Slough Nature Park centers on the Mercer Slough, which flows under I-90 east of the Enatai neighborhood into Lake Washington. Work on the NME project will affect users of the lower end of the slough, two nearby bike trails, and the Swayolocken Boat Launch. Two different parts of the project will impact these public amenities.

First, the Enatai Siphon will be installed through horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at the Swayolocken Pump Station, along the access road to the boat launch. The Enatai Siphon will support the North Mercer/Enatai sewer system when there is a lot of wastewater in the pipes. The siphon is essential to the project mission of ensuring that the system has enough capacity for wastewater flows expected through 2060.

After the new siphon is complete, the existing Enatai Interceptor will be taken offline for repairs. The existing interceptor extends east from

Enatai Beach Park along the bottom of Lake Washington to the mouth of the Mercer Slough, where it then continues north to the Swayolocken Pump Station. Once all sewage can be diverted to the new siphon, crews will repair the Mercer Slough portion of the existing interceptor using cured-in-place pipe, which adds a durable lining inside the existing pipe. This will increase the pipe's life span to extend at least through 2060.



Installing the Enatai Siphon and upgrading the Enatai Interceptor will both have impacts in the area around the Mercer Slough and Swayolocken Boat Launch.

Working on the Siphon at the Sveyolocken Site

The Enatai Siphon will extend about 3,000 feet from Enatai Beach Park to the Swaylocken Pump Station. Installation starts with drilling a hole from one end to the other using a drilling rig set up next to the pump station. Additional steps will enlarge the original drill hole, and then pull the pipe through from the park to the pump station.

Additionally, a sewer from the end of the siphon to the pump station inlet will be installed via open-cut construction: digging a trench, laying the pipe into it, and filling the trench back in.

The work calls for extensive equipment and materials at the Sweyolocken pump station. The access road from Bellevue Way SE to the Sweyolocken Boat Launch will be closed for the duration of this work.

When will this work happen?

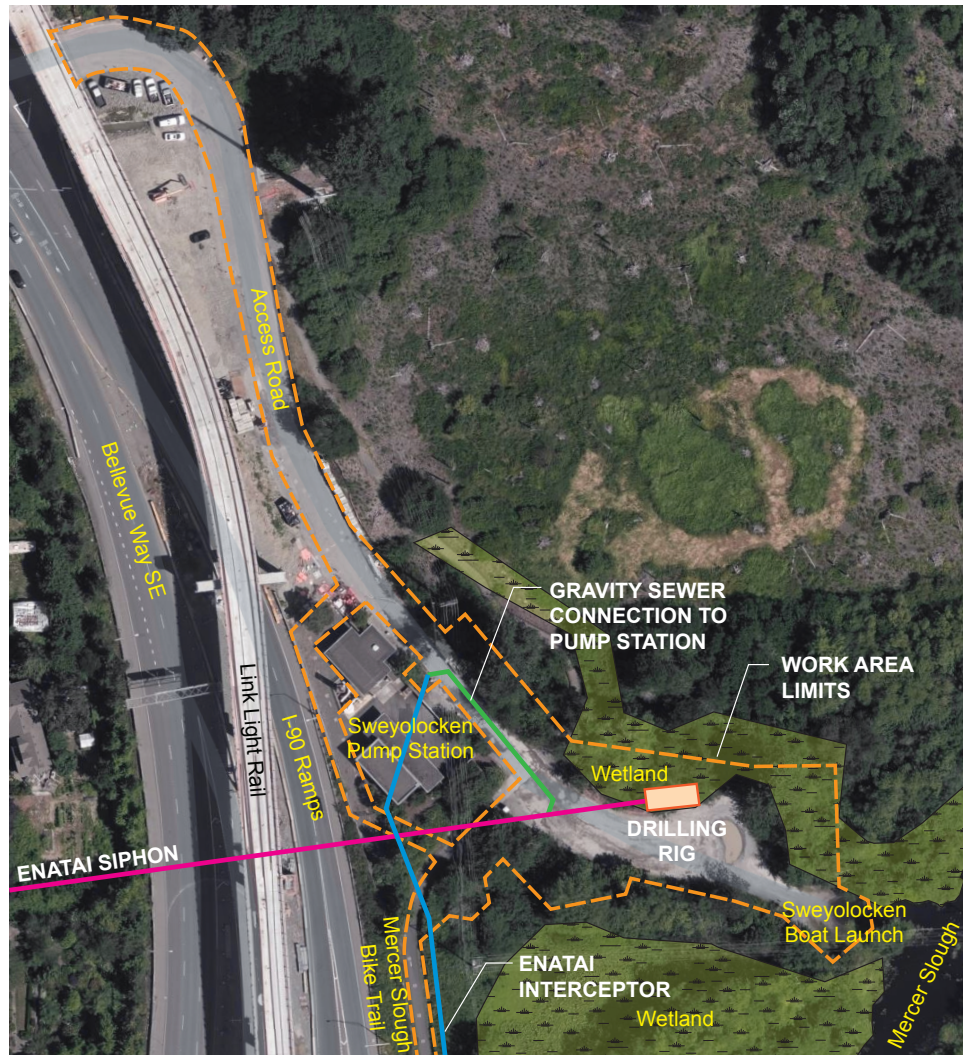
Project dates are not finalized yet, but the Enetai Siphon work at Sweyolocken will likely start in the spring of 2022 and last six to nine months.

How will the work affect the Sveyolocken Boat Launch?

The boat launch will be closed to vehicle, foot and boat traffic for the duration of the work.

Can I use the Mercer Slough Bike Trail during this work?

The area south of the pump station will be closed during construction. Trail traffic will be detoured along side streets from near the South Bellevue Park & Ride to the I-90 Bike Trail near 108th Avenue SE. The I-90 Bike Trail will remain open throughout much of the work; however, detours may be required during final restoration of the trail.



Sweyolocken Boat Launch and Pump Station Site During Construction of the Enatai Siphon Connection

What about use of the rest of the Mercer Slough Nature Park? This project will not impact access to the Mercer Slough Nature Park outside of the boat launch and bike trail described above.

Will Bellevue Way SE be affected? Construction vehicles will use the road to access the work site, but no work will happen on or near the road, and it will not be closed at any point.

Will the work affect wetlands and trees? About 20 trees will be removed to make room for a staging area to store equipment and materials, which will extend into the wetland at one point. We will restore the affected wetland once the work is finished.

Fixing the Pipeline along the Mercer Slough

Once the new Enatai Siphon is operational, we will divert wastewater out of the Enatai Interceptor and into the new siphon. Crews will open a trench to repair a segment of the pipe at Enatai Beach Park, complete spot repairs on the pipe from the water in front of some beach front homes and insert a new liner into the existing pipe along the Mercer Slough.

The Mercer Slough relining will extend about 2,200 feet from the end of SE Lake Road to the Swayolocken Pump Station. At maintenance holes and other key spots along the way, the new lining will be inserted and pulled through the pipe to the next access point.

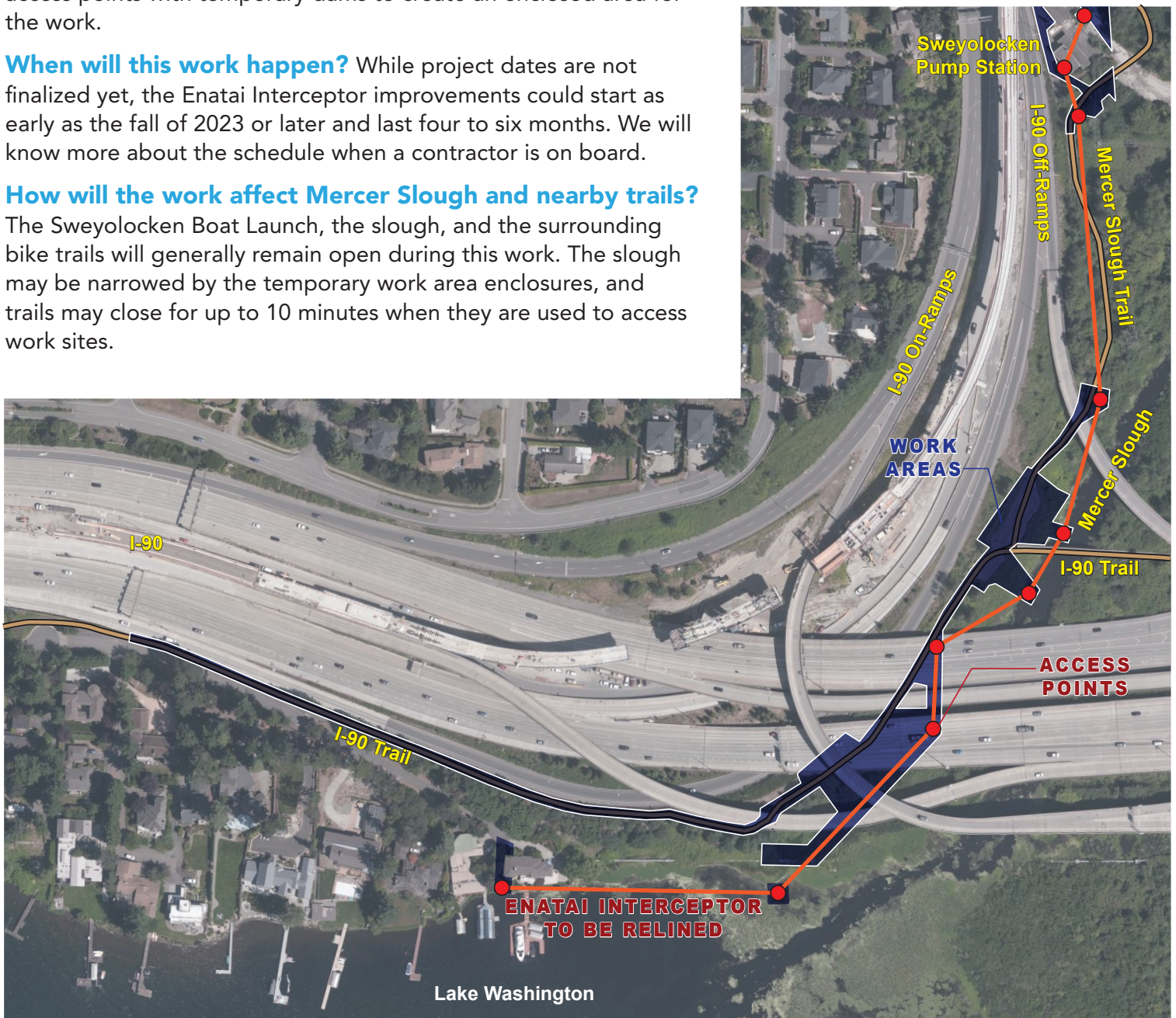
Most of the access points will be on land, but a few will be in the Mercer Slough. When working in the water, crews will surround the access points with temporary dams to create an enclosed area for the work.

When will this work happen? While project dates are not finalized yet, the Enatai Interceptor improvements could start as early as the fall of 2023 or later and last four to six months. We will know more about the schedule when a contractor is on board.

How will the work affect Mercer Slough and nearby trails?

The Swayolocken Boat Launch, the slough, and the surrounding bike trails will generally remain open during this work. The slough may be narrowed by the temporary work area enclosures, and trails may close for up to 10 minutes when they are used to access work sites.

What impacts are expected on wetlands and trees? Some trees will need to be removed along the path of the interceptor relining work: a few near where the I-90 and Mercer Slough Bike Trails meet and about 20 near the Swayolocken Pump Station. Other trees will likely be trimmed at the upstream end near SE Lake Road. Work also will take place in wetland areas. Full restoration of affected wetlands will occur after construction is finished.



What's Next

King County is currently bringing contractors onboard. Once all documents and paperwork are finalized, construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022. Overall, construction will take four years, though most work locations will see shorter durations.

Our team will share information so neighbors know what to expect during construction and beyond. Here is what you can expect from us this year:

- Attendance at community events*
- Project newsletters, fact sheets, and field work notifications
- Monthly project web updates
- Online/in-person open houses*
- Briefings online/in-person for interested community groups*

We are committed to continuing to be a good neighbor during construction. We will share information about construction and impacts on Enatai Beach Park on our website, in project emails, and through posted information at the park.

**In accordance with Seattle/King County Public Health guidelines.*

Post-Construction Restoration



King County is committed to leaving project work areas in the same or better condition when the work is done as they were before the work began. All construction equipment will be removed as soon as practical, and site restoration will follow.

Work areas in the Mercer Slough Nature Park

Crews will restore affected areas along the slough and bike trails to pre-construction conditions. Restoration includes planting new trees at the end of SE Lake Road, and ecological enhancements in the Mercer Slough Nature Park such as removal of invasive species and planting native vegetation.

Crews will repave any sections of the bike paths that were damaged in construction.

Work at the Sweyolocken Site

The planned work areas at the Sweyolocken site are currently either improved surfaces—such as gravel, concrete, and asphalt—or degraded natural areas. Crews will replant disturbed wetland areas with native vegetation and plant new trees in the areas where existing trees had to be removed.

Crews will restore paved and other improved areas to their pre-construction conditions after the work is completed.

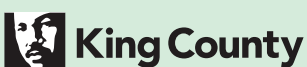
NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Talk to us! For more information, or to schedule a virtual meeting, please contact:

The community services team at **206-263-1915** or **NMEsewer@kingcounty.gov**

Sign up for text alerts. Text **KING MERCERSEWER** to **468-311**.

Visit the project Web page at **www.kingcounty.gov/MercerEnataiSewer**



Alternative formats available
206-477-5371 or TTY replay: 711

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